

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

No. 266

Washington, D. C.

July 14, 1928

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July Crop Conditions

The composite condition of 35 principal crops in the United States, on July 1 was 5.8 per cent below the average July 1 condition of these crops during the past ten years, according to the July 10 crop report issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Although the production of most crops is still largely dependent on the weather between now and harvest, there are indications that the increase in acreage compared with last year may be more than offset by lower yields per acre.

The total area in corn is estimated at 102,380,000 acres, compared with 98,868,000 acres harvested last year. The condition of corn on July 1 indicates a yield per acre of 26.7 bushels, compared with 28.2 bushels per acre harvested in 1927, and 27.2 bushels, the five-year average. The condition of the dry bean crop on July 1 was 76.3 per cent of normal, compared with 82.1 per cent a year ago, and 85.4 per cent, the ten-year average. From present indications this will be a year of fairly heavy fruit production, but an unusually large proportion of the total fruit crop is in the Pacific Coast states. The total apple crop is now estimated at 178,185,000 bushels; the condition of the crop on July 1 was 62.9 per cent, as compared with 46.6 per cent last year and 59.6 per cent, the ten-year average. The present forecast of peach production, 65,981,000 bushels, is 45 per cent larger than in 1927, and only 4,000,000 bushels short of the record 1926 crop. Condition of the peach crop is 70.6 per cent, as compared with 48.1 per cent last year, and 60.8 per

cent for the ten-year average. Pear prospects are only fair in eastern United States, but are particularly good in the Pacific Coast states where almost two-thirds of the total crop will be produced this year. The condition of the pear crop is 66.5 per cent, as compared with 49.8 per cent July 1 of last year, and 60.8 per cent, the ten-year average.

Green Peas for Canning

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics on July 13 issued revised acreage statistics on green peas for canning, with indicated yield and forecast of production as of July 1, 1928. This report was received too late to be included as a printed part of this week's Information Letter, but a mimeographed copy is enclosed.

Condition of Cherry Crop

In a statement by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, made public July 11, the condition of cherries is reported as of July 1, 1928, at 66% in Michigan, 83% in Wisconsin, 35% in Colorado, 75% in Utah and 63% in both Washington and California, and 59% in Pennsylvania. Sour cherries are reported by commercial growers in New York as 38% of normal and sweet cherries as 32%. The comparable figures for June 1 are 76% in Michigan, 74% in Utah, 60% in Washington and 62% in California. The June 1 condition of sour cherries in New York was 72%, and of sweet cherries 53%. Comparable figures are not available for Colorado, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. On July 1, 1927, the reported condition of cherries was 27% in Michigan, 76% in Colorado, 57% in Utah, 35% in Washington, 45% in California, and 43% in Pennsylvania. At that time the condition of sour cherries in New York was 39% and the sweet cherries 45% of normal.

Weather and Crops

The outstanding features of the weather conditions during the week ended July 10 as reported by the Weather Bureau, were the high temperatures and warm, sunny conditions in most districts; a distinct change from the cool, cloudy and wet weather that had prevailed for more than a month in Central and Northern States. Precipitation was heavy to excessive in a number of the southeastern districts, portions of the Ohio Valley, and some upper Mississippi Valley sections, and was substantial in parts of Kansas and the northern Great Plains. Elsewhere the

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National Cannery Association

WASHINGTON, D. C.

FORECAST OF PRODUCTION OF GREEN PEAS FOR CANNING

As of July 1, 1928

Following is a report issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on July 13, showing the revised acreage, indicated yield per acre, and forecast of production as of July 1, 1928, compared with 1927:

State	Acreage		Yield per Acre				Production	
	1927	Revised 1928	1927	Indicated		1927	June 1 1928	July 1 1928
				June 1 1928	July 1 1928			
	Acres	Acres	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Thou- sands of pounds	Thou- sands of pounds	Thou- sands of pounds
California.....	750	1,240	2,800	2,340	2,400	2,100	2,902	2,975
Colorado.....	1,800	3,260	1,400	2,376	2,352	2,520	7,746	7,668
Delaware.....	1,700	2,060	3,000	2,088	1,920	5,100	4,301	3,955
Illinois.....	8,830	10,240	1,400	2,184	2,304	12,362	22,364	23,593
Indiana.....	1,880	3,760	1,500	2,208	1,992	3,008	8,302	7,490
Maine.....	720	920	1,500	1,920	1,900	1,152	1,756	1,656

Delaware.....	1,700	2,060	3,000	2,088	1,920	5,100	4,301	3,955
Illinois.....	8,830	10,240	1,400	2,184	2,304	12,362	22,364	23,593
Indiana.....	1,890	3,760	1,500	2,208	1,992	3,008	8,302	7,490
Maine.....	720	920	1,500	1,920	1,800	1,152	1,766	1,656
Maryland.....	8,000	8,720	2,800	2,232	2,016	22,400	19,463	17,580
Michigan.....	8,400	11,930	1,400	2,088	2,308	11,760	24,910	26,341
Minnesota.....	6,990	7,890	1,600	2,064	2,064	11,168	16,285	16,265
New Jersey....	500	160	2,400	2,160	2,160	1,200	346	346
New York.....	25,540	31,970	1,600	2,208	2,040	40,864	70,590	65,219
Ohio.....	2,990	3,320	1,500	1,728	1,800	4,784	5,737	5,976
Pennsylvania..	1,320	1,680	2,800	2,580	2,400	3,696	4,334	4,032
Utah.....	8,450	10,150	2,400	2,880	2,670	20,304	29,232	27,100
Wisconsin.....	80,000	96,000	2,000	2,016	1,700	160,000	193,636	163,200
Other States..	5,840	8,350	2,400	1,600	1,760	14,016	13,360	14,696
Total or								
Average....	163,710	201,650	1,933	2,108	1,925	316,434	425,174	398,113

The total acreage and production of green peas for canning during the years 1924 - 1926 inclusive, were as follows:

	Acre	Thousands of pounds
1924	225,590	488,404
1925	225,630	412,944
1926	212,680	430,000

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rainfall was generally light to moderate, although some rather heavy falls were reported from sections of the North Atlantic area and the central Appalachian Mountains. In the far Southwest and quite generally in the Central and Southern States west of the Rocky Mountains, the week was practically rainless.

Advance of warm-weather vegetation was especially rapid, because, in addition to the high temperatures, soil moisture was abundant in most sections. Complaint of poor cultivation of row crops and resulting grassy fields because of recent wetness continued, however, while some sections, especially in parts of the Ohio Valley, reported the soil still too wet for field work.

The weather of the week was generally favorable for corn, with progress mostly excellent in the main producing sections. Haying and harvest made generally good advance in the interior and Northern states, and cultivation progressed satisfactorily in most of the South. It continued extremely dry in the more southwestern states where the lack of moisture and the prevailing high temperatures have been harmful to the range, but irrigated crops generally did well. A change to warmer weather was beneficial to California. Fruits in general are doing well, with the weather favorable in most sections.

Truck Crop Markets

Total forwardings of 30 leading fruits and vegetables increased to 21,260 cars for the week ended July 7, according to the Market News Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This increase, the report states, was due chiefly to heavier output of watermelons, peaches, pears, apples, grapes, and cucumbers. A downward trend has been noticeable in prices of nearly all products except cantaloupes and lettuce.

Cabbage output for the week dropped to 250 cars. Cucumber shipments were very active, especially from North Carolina; the week's total was 625 cars, as against 385 a year ago. Only 8 cars of sweet potatoes were reported last week, compared with 120 during the corresponding period in 1927. Tomatoes declined, even though total shipments decreased to 1,280 cars, compared with 850 a year ago. The Mississippi season was about finished; Texas forwarded only 190 cars, and Tennessee took first place with 760 cars. The season opened in Virginia and Maryland.

With western states moving 125 cars of apples, and eastern states 290 cars, the total volume was more than double that of the week before. Illinois originated most of the eastern supply, while California and Washington were active in the West. A crop of 1,800 carloads of Gravenstein apples is getting under way in the Sebastopol district of Northern California. Shipments of peaches increased to nearly 2,000 cars, Georgia furnishing 1,750, Alabama 80, North Carolina 40 and California 50 cars. Movement for the current week in Georgia Belles were expected to start by Thursday, and Elbertas by the 16th of July.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	July 1-7 1928	June 24-30 1928	July 3-9 1927	Total this season to July 7	Total last season to July 9	Total last season
Apples, total	413	174	302	631	611	93,275
Asparagus	9	19	2	2,846	2,125	2,132
Cabbage	232	384	220	17,194	15,467	39,034
Cantaloupes	2,553	2,327	2,986	16,348	17,913	30,236
Carrots, 1928 season	50	133	(a)	5,115	(a)	6,634
Cherries	234	379	232	2,164	1,977	1,460
Mixed deciduous fruit ..	201	170	130	1,946	959	5,405
Mixed vegetables	73	443	464	20,488	20,118	35,045
Peaches	1,969	690	3,730	3,661	10,521	41,553
Peas	570	175	99	751	162	18,713
Peppers	146	48	178	3,197	2,833	4,148
Pumpkins	119	135	61	2,366	1,724	2,824
Plums and prunes	353	418	332	2,252	1,455	5,983
Strawberries	66	79	75	18,493	17,839	17,893
String beans	160	260	80	5,782	5,257	6,481
Tomatoes	1,277	1,790	852	18,048	20,078	38,612

(a) Unavailable

Carlot Shipping Requirements

Transportation requirements for 29 of the principal commodities in the third quarter of this year, (the months of July, August and September) will be approximately 9,910,768 cars, an increase of about 597,031 cars above the corresponding period of 1927, or 6.4 per cent increase, according to a report made public by the Car Service Division of the American Railway Association. The report gives the estimated carlot shipments for all canned foods (including catsup, jams, jellies, olives, pickles, preserves, etc.), for 1928 as 42,975 cars, or an increase of 2.4 per cent over the actual shipments in 1927, which amounted to 41,975 cars.

Truck Crop Prospects

On July 12 the Bureau of Agricultural Economics issued revised forecast of the production of cucumbers, green peas,

and tomatoes in various states. The following table gives the forecast for 1928 along with the actual yields in 1927:

Commodity	Production	
	Actual 1927 Hampers	Forecast 1928 Hampers
Cucumbers:		
Intermediate	920,000	1,095,000
Early	3,207,000	2,841,000
Second early	1,154,000	921,000
Total	5,281,000	4,857,000
Peas:		
Colorado	403,000	535,000
New York	923,000	975,000
Total	1,326,000	1,560,000
Tomatoes:		
	Busheis	Busheis
Intermediate	4,187,000	4,043,000
Early	4,110,000	3,802,000
Second early	4,477,000	3,431,000
Total	12,774,000	11,276,000

Following is the condition of specified truck crops on July 1 as reported by state statisticians and growers:

Commodity	July 1 1927 Per cent	July 1 1928 Per cent	10-year ave. Per cent
Beets	82	..
Cabbage	87	82	83
Carrots	84	89	a82
Cauliflower	97	85	a92
Cucumbers	79	82	77
Green peas	92
Peppers	80	87	..
Snap beans	73	85	a76
Sweet corn	79	85	b76
Tomatoes	80	84	81

a. 5-year average.

b. 4-year average.

Bermuda Vegetable Shipments

Exports of fresh vegetables from Bermuda to the United States during the first two weeks of June amounted to 1,181,000 pounds as compared with 2,437,000 pounds during the corresponding two weeks last year, according to a report received in the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from the American Consul at Hamilton. This brings total shipments from the beginning of the season on November 1, 1927, to June 15, 1928, to 13,696,000 pounds. Total shipments from November 15, 1926, to June 28, 1927, amounted to 13,768,000 pounds.

Navy Department in Market for Canned Peas

The Navy Department is asking for bids, to be opened July 31, on 1,860,000 pounds of canned peas for delivery in varying amounts at the Navy Yards at Boston, Mass., Brooklyn, N. Y., Philadelphia, Pa., Hampton Roads, Va., Mare Island, Calif., and Bremerton, Wash. Copies of Schedule No. 9294 on which to submit bids may be obtained upon application to the supply officer of any navy yard, the Navy Purchasing Offices, Newport, R. I., New York, N. Y., and San Francisco, Calif., or to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Washington, D. C.

Fruit in Cold Storage

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports the following cold storage holdings of fruit as of July 1:

	July 1, 1927	July 1, 1928
Peas barrels	1,000	1,000
Peas boxes	34,000	31,000
Frozen and preserved fruits pounds	57,670,000	59,837,000

Business Conditions

Measured by the volume of checks passing through the banks for payment, business during the week ended July 7 was greater than in either the preceding week or the same week of last year, according to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce. Wholesale prices as reflected by the general index showed a further gain over both the previous week and the corresponding period a year ago.

Loans and discounts of Federal Reserve member banks were higher than in either the previous week or the corresponding period a year earlier. Loans to brokers and dealers by member banks in New York City showed a gain over the preceding week, being higher also than a year ago.

Interest rates on time money showed no change from the previous week, averaging higher than in the corresponding period of last year. Interest rates on call loans averaged lower than in the previous week but were substantially higher than a year ago. Business failures were less numerous than in the previous week, but were greater than a year ago.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise and L.C.L.	Other
Week ended June 30	1,003,049	391,967	258,804	372,278
Preceding week	856,789	385,344	256,363	345,082
Corresponding week, 1927	1,021,438	401,586	260,545	359,307
Corresponding week, 1926	1,065,641	399,038	281,858	404,745

Total loadings of revenue freight for the first twenty-six weeks of this year, January 1 to June 30, amounted to 24,457,-

105 cars, according to the report of the Car Service Division of the American Railway Association. This was a decrease of 1,063,935 cars under the corresponding period last year, and a decrease of 876,127 cars under 1926 loadings.

Labeling Imitation "Grape" Concentrates

The Federal Trade Commission has announced the signing of two agreements (Stipulations Nos. 228 and 229) by manufacturers of syrups and concentrates in regard to the use of the word "grape" to designate manufactured products or concentrates not composed wholly or in part of the juice or fruit of the grape. Such designation is called an unfair trade practice because the product is made of ingredients other than grapes. Provision is made that when the product is composed in a substantial part of the juice or fruit of the grape the word "grape" may be used in the trade name, with certain specified qualifications.

Improved Containers for Carrying Sardines in Norway

With the expansion of the sardine-canning industry in the Stavanger district of Norway, the factories are becoming more and more dependent on the catches in distant waters for their supplies of raw fish, according to the American Consul at Stavanger. This dependence carries with it the problem of transporting the very delicate brisling and mussa from fishing grounds to canneries so that they arrive in the best possible condition.

For this use a local box factory has developed a new kind of double box, or case, which is claimed to keep the fish in perfectly fresh condition for at least 36 hours after they are removed from the nets, by preventing the ice from touching and thus bruising the delicate fish.

The outer box is 745 by 551 by 203 millimeters (30" x 22" x 8"), in size, and the inner box is 745 by 413 by 140 millimeters (30" x 16 1/2" x 5 1/2"). The inner box, fitted with a lid, will hold two skjaepper of fish (one skjaeppe equals 20 liters, or 21.13 quarts). The space between the sides, top, and bottom of the two boxes (there is no space between the ends of the inner and outer box) is filled with crushed ice. As the boxes are stacked one upon the other, the bottom of one box serves as cover for the one under it, so that only the top layer of the outer boxes require lids.

The old-style boxes hitherto and still largely in use, not only have no inner case that prevents the crushed ice from bruising

and otherwise injuring the delicate fish, but they contain only one skjaeppe of fish and proportionately more ice and are therefore less economical in space than the new-style boxes.

The size of herring boxes is regulated in Norway by law. The law is intended to protect both fishermen and buyers against unfair practice by one or the other. Prior to its enforcement, fishermen were accused of using undersized boxes and buyers were charged with using oversized boxes, in consequence of which there was constant disagreement.

Report on Quality Canned Foods Campaign

The Quality Canned Foods Campaign Committee has prepared a report showing the results of the 1928 Quality Canned Foods Campaign. This report has just been issued in printed form and a copy is being mailed this week to each member of the Association. Should you not receive your copy kindly let us know and a duplicate will be forwarded immediately. Copies have been sent to each local chairman, and to members of the various associations cooperating in the campaign.

Foreign Trade Notes

Further information on German food marking regulations.—The latest report from the American Commercial Attache at Berlin states that the use of the word "Nettoeinwage" is considered undesirable on canned fruits. The German Ministry recommends the use of either the words "Reingewicht der Fruechte" or "Nettogewicht der Fruechte." German manufacturers omit the words "der Fruechte" using only the words "Reingewicht" or "Nettogewicht," which practice seems satisfactory to the authorities. It would seem desirable for American exporters of canned fruits to follow the recommendation of the German Ministry.

New Austro-French commercial agreement.—In the new commercial agreement between Austria and France, which was signed at Paris May 16, and is now awaiting ratification, Austria grants France, in addition to general most-favored-nation treatment, duty reductions on canned asparagus, artichokes and spinach from 100 to 45 gold crowns per 100 kilos (approximately \$9.21 to \$4.15 per 100 pounds) and on preserved lobsters from 500 to 300 gold crowns per 100 kilos (approximately \$46.05 to \$27.62 per 100 pounds). The United States enjoys conventional rates in view of our most-favored-nation status with Austria.